

Reservoir Operations Study overview

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.

For More Information

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at www.tva.com, to call toll-free 1-888-882-7675, to fax TVA at 865-632-3146, or to write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, Tennessee Valley Authority, c/o WT 11 A, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Background

TVA is conducting a formal evaluation of its policies for operating the Tennessee River system, including an analysis of the economic impacts of any potential changes in these policies. Existing policies affect the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year, depending on rainfall.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value. Technical analyses will be performed to evaluate the impacts of TVA's current policies and the potential impacts of alternatives on a number of resource areas and other issues. TVA will conduct the study in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, and results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA will issue a draft EIS, identifying the preferred alternative for the Reservoir Operations Study (ROS).

The two-year ROS is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

Decision-making Process

For this study, members of the public are asked to share their values—what's really important to them about how the Valley's natural resources, especially the water, are managed.

TVA will listen carefully to these views and—working with technical experts and others from federal and state agencies—develop those values into a set of objectives that expresses what people want from the river system.

Based on these objectives, TVA will develop a range of alternatives for operating the system. The alternatives will be shared with the public and discussed before any decision is made.

Timeline

- Spring 2002 – TVA begins study by gathering input from the public, other state and federal agencies and technical experts to define the scope of the study.
- Summer 2002 - Winter 2003 – Technical experts collect and review data and perform analyses to evaluate the environmental impacts of TVA's current reservoir operating policies and the potential impacts of alternatives.
- Spring 2003 – TVA issues the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment. The Draft EIS documents the issues and alternatives identified early in the process, as well as a preferred alternative.
- Summer 2003 – TVA gathers comments from the public and other agencies on the draft EIS and prepares a response to the comments.
- Fall 2003 – TVA issues the final Environmental Impact Statement, which includes public comments about the draft and responses to those comments. The Final EIS identifies TVA's preferred alternative.
- Late Fall 2003 – TVA announces any decision and the rationale for the decision.